



## *The President's Daily Brief*

*Sunday*  
5 DEC 1971  
~~6 DECEMBER 1971~~



*Top Secret*

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## FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SUNDAY CABLE  
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## INDIA-PAKISTAN

Prospects for any effective UN action to halt hostilities were not enhanced by last night's lengthy, polemical Security Council debate. The US-sponsored draft, although supported by China, was blocked by a Soviet veto, and none of the three drafts still before the Council has a strong chance of adoption at today's session. The Soviet draft focuses heavily on the need for a political solution in East Bengal, and a second draft couples a cease-fire call with the controversial troop withdrawal proposal. Some Western members, however, are still hopeful that a third draft resolution for a simple cease-fire may avoid great power veto.

As military operations continue, the strategies of both sides are becoming clearer. Pakistan, on the defensive in the East, is attempting to compensate for anticipated defeat there by offensive moves in the West aimed primarily at Kashmir. India, on the other hand, is still limiting itself largely to defensive actions on the West while trying to achieve rapid military victory in East Pakistan. An official of the Ministry of External Affairs has told the US Embassy in New Delhi that India will shift to an "all-out response" in the West if Pakistani "aggression" persists after the East falls.

In the air war, both sides have issued what are no doubt exaggerated claims of enemy aircraft downed while minimizing their own losses. In the East, where the Indians have an eight-to-one advantage in fighter aircraft, New Delhi hopes to achieve early destruction of the Pakistani Air Force. Dacca had undergone at least ten airstrikes as of mid-day yesterday, aimed chiefly at the airfield and military cantonment. In West Pakistan, various airfields have been attacked, with POL storage areas around Karachi a prime target.

The Indian naval blockade of ports in both East and West Pakistan has been accompanied by a warning that neutral vessels may be searched if suspected of carrying contraband. US officials in Calcutta have reported that a US flag vessel owned by American Export Isbrandtsen Lines, the SS Expedito, was stopped in international waters by the Indian Navy sometime during the night of 4-5 December and forced to move into Indian waters near the Port of Madras. The Indians say they have conducted airstrikes or shelling attacks on two major ports in the East and to have sunk a Pakistani destroyer in a naval battle off Karachi.

The heaviest ground fighting continues to be in East Pakistan where [ ] the Pakistani Army is hard pressed and has given some ground, although still inflicting heavy casualties. New Delhi claims that several towns have been taken by its forces and the Mukti Bahini guerrillas, but there is as yet little confirmatory evidence. In the West, Pakistan has claimed "major advances" in Kashmir and the Indians have admitted some losses of territory.

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Arrangements have been concluded for a Pan American aircraft to land at Karachi this morning to evacuate American dependents. UN officials in New York are trying to arrange a temporary cease-fire in the Dacca area of East Pakistan so that UN personnel there may be evacuated. Landing conditions currently are hazardous and the airfield is considered likely to be unusable in another day or so.

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SOUTH KOREA

President Pak Chong-hui is planning a series of moves that will increase his personal power.

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*These moves are the culmination of a two-month-long government campaign in which the threat from the north has been given extensive play in the press as well as in official statements and documents. Since there is no evidence suggesting such an attack is imminent, the motivation for Pak's new measures seems clearly political,*

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Concern [redacted] over the state of the economy undoubtedly is a factor in Pak's desire for a tighter grip on affairs. This desire has probably been reinforced by his success in quashing student disorders and recent factionalism in his own party through decisive action. These seem to us insufficient reasons, however, for Pak's taking a major political step that risks serious domestic and international criticism. It may be, therefore, that the new measures represent the start of a longer range plan to curb the political intrigues already unleashed by Pak's pledge to retire in 1975 and to prepare a case for prolonging his tenure in office.

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NOTE

Cambodia: Prime Minister Lon Nol has ordered a comprehensive assessment of the Chenla II campaign, which officially terminated yesterday, in order to determine "what went wrong" with the operation. Several government units located about 12 miles west of Phnom Penh were attacked by the Communists early on Saturday, but casualties apparently were light. The South Vietnamese forces operating in eastern Cambodia have reported an increase in the number of small clashes in recent days, but their dry season campaign has yet to encounter any substantial enemy resistance.

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